

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (cancelled). A fastener comprising:

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion, and the side leg portion, the barbs also having a front point which front point substantially reaches or exceeds the lower side, the barbs directed outwardly away from the legs.

2 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the head portion of the fastener comprises an upper side and a lower side.

3 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the head portion of the fastener has a single side corresponding to the lower side.

4 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the hole is substantially round.

5 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the hole comprises an oblong opening.

6. A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

7 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 4, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

8 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the first hole is engageable to the expansion member.

9 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at least lower side, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

10. A spring fastener as defined in claim 2, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at upper side of the head, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

11 (cancelled). An assembly comprising a first part and a fastener,
the first part having an upper surface and a lower surface, a slot commensurate to the fastener, the slot having a length, a width, lower edges, upper edges, and side edges, along its length;

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion, and the side leg portion, the barbs directed outwardly away from the legs, the barbs also having a front point which front point is substantially disposed above the lower surface of the first part and above the lower edges of the slot.

12 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the head portion of the fastener comprises an upper side and a lower side.

13 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the head portion of the fastener has a single side corresponding to the lower side.

14 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the hole is substantially round.

15 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the hole comprises an oblong opening.

16 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

17 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

18 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the first hole is engageable to the expansion member.

19 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at least lower side, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

20 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at upper side of the head, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

21 (currently amended). A spring fastener comprising:

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon

inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having a front point and an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion and the side leg portion, the barbs being comprising a proximal barb section starting at the origin, the proximal barb section being directed outwardly away from the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively, and then a distal barb section ending at the front point and being directed inwardly toward the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively.

22 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the head portion of the fastener comprises an upper side, ~~and a lower side.~~

23 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the head portion of the fastener has a single side corresponding to the lower side.

24 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the hole is substantially round.

25 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the hole comprises an oblong opening.

26 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

27 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 24, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

28 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the first hole is engageable to the expansion member.

29 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at least lower side, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

30 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 22, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at upper side of the head, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

31 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the ~~outwardly and inwardly portions~~ proximal barb and distal barb sections [of the barbs] have an angle, which angle is adequately large to allow the fastener to be removed from the first part without destruction of said fastener or said first part, when the removal takes place solely from the side of the first part, wherein the head of the fastener is positioned.

32 (currently amended). An assembly comprising a first part and a fastener,

the first part having an upper surface and a lower surface, a slot commensurate to the fastener, the slot having a length, a width, lower edges, upper edges and side edges, along its length;

the fastener being inserted into the slot and comprising:

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having a front point and an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion and the side leg portion, the barbs ~~being~~ comprising a proximal barb section starting at the origin, the proximal barb section being directed outwardly away from the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively, and then a distal barb section ending at the front point and being directed inwardly toward the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively, the distal sections also having sliding portions in contact with at least one of the lower, upper, and side edges of the slot.

33 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the head portion of the fastener comprises an upper side ~~and a lower side~~.

34 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the head portion of the fastener has a single side corresponding to the lower side.

35 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the hole is substantially round.

36 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the hole comprises an oblong opening.

37 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

38 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 35, wherein the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

39 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the first hole is engageable to the expansion member.

40 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at least lower side, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

41 (original). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the fastener comprises at least one region under the at upper side of the head, which region is engageable to the expansion member.

42 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein the ~~outwardly and inwardly portions~~ proximal barb and distal sections [of the barbs] have an angle, which angle is adequately large to allow the fastener to be removed from the first part without destruction of said fastener or said first part, when the removal takes place solely from the side of the first part, wherein the head of the fastener is positioned.

45 (currently amended). A vehicle comprising a first part having a slot and a second part having a hole, the two parts connected with a fastener, the fastener comprising:

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having a front point and an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion and the side leg portion, the barbs being comprising a proximal barb section starting at the origin, the proximal barb section being directed outwardly away from the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively, and then a distal barb section ending at the front point and being directed inwardly toward the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively.

46 (currently amended). A vehicle comprising an assembly of a first part with a slot, and a fastener within the slot, the fastener comprising:

(a) a substantially flat head portion comprising a first hole, the flat head comprising at least a lower side;

(b) a neck having an opening and two side neck portions, the neck extending from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion;

(c) two substantially flat legs extending from the neck, each leg having an inner surface, the two inner surfaces of the two legs being at an initial proximity with each other, the legs being expandable in opposite directions upon

inserting through the first hole an expansion member, thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs, each leg also having side leg portions;

(d) a funnel configuration in the vicinity of the contact region; and

(e) barbs having a front point and an origin at a region selected from the side neck portion and the side leg portion, the barbs ~~being~~ comprising a proximal barb section starting at the origin, the proximal barb section being directed outwardly away from the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively, and then a distal barb section ending at the front point and being directed inwardly toward the legs side neck portion and the side leg portion, respectively.